THE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN

RESPECTING THE RECENT EXPLOSION

OF THE

GUNPOWDER MAGAZINE,

AT HALIFAX,

WITH DEPOSITIONS OF THE WITNESSES EXAMINED BY THEM ON THE SUBJECT.

Published by Order of the City Council.

HALIFAX, N. S.

PRINTED AT THE "MORNING JOURNAL" OFFICE.

1857.

On the 25th August, 1857, the City Council resolved to have One Thousand Copies of the following Report and the Testimony appended to it, printed in Pamphlet form, for distribution among the Citizens.

The building was erected under authority of an Act passed in 1827, since repealed.

BEAMISH MURDOCH,
Recorder.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

PROCLAMATION.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL

Sir John Gaspard LeMarchant,

Knight, Knight Commander of the Orders of Saint Ferdinand, and of Charles the Third of Spain, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief in and over Her

L. S. *Majesty's Province of Nova-Scotia and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.*

J. GASPARD LEMARCHANT.

WHEREAS, late last night, or early this morning, the City Powder Magazine, in the North suburb of the City of Halifax, was destroyed by the explosion of the Gunpowder stored therein, causing the destruction of human life and great injury to public and private property, and alarm to the inhabitants of the city; and whereas, there is reason to believe that the same resulted from the wilful and malicious act of some person or persons unknown; I do hereby offer and proclaim a REWARD OF

FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS,

Currency, to be paid to any person or persons (not concerned in the commission of the crime) who shall cause to be discovered or apprehended and brought to justice the offenders, or any of them, upon conviction.

And all her Majesty's loyal subjects are hereby enjoined and requested to aid in the premises to the utmost extent of their ability, and to disclose to the nearest magistrate, or to His Worship the Mayor of Halifax, any information they may possess or receive in relation to the subject.

Given under my hand and Seal at Arms, at Halifax, this fourteenth day of August, in the Twenty-first year of Her Majesty's Reign, A. D. 1857.

By His Excellency's Command,

CHARLES TUPPER.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

339 13

£500 REWARD!

MAYOR'S OFFICE,

HALIFAX, N. S., 14th AUGUST, 1857.

WHEREAS, early this morning, the City Gunpowder Magazine was blown up, causing much injury to persons and property, and the death of at least one individual, I hereby offer a Reward of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS to any person or persons who will give information whereby the offender or offenders may be discovered and brought to conviction, in case such explosion has been the result of any criminal act.

ARCHIBALD SCOTT,
Mayor.

AT A MEETING OF ALDERMEN,

14th August, 1857.

WHEREAS a great disaster happened last night in the explosion of the City Magazine:

We recommend that Aldermen JENNINGS, NOBLE and BELL, be a Committee to take testimony, on oath;—to discover, if possible, the causes of this calamity.

And further, we recommend that His Worship do at once offer a reward of £500 for the discovery and conviction of the offenders, in case this misfortune has been the effect of any criminal acts.

JOSEPH BELL.
SAMUEL CALDWELL.
WILLIAM McKAY.
W. G. ANDERSON.
J. JENNINGS.
PETER MORRISCY.
JOHN WILLS.
JOHN LONGARD.
JOHN. L. BARRY.
JAMES COCHRAN.
MATTHEW LOWNDS.
JEREMIAH CONWAY.
SAMUEL NOBLE.
JOHN KING.

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REPORT.

A meeting of Aldermen having been convened by his WORSHIP THE MAYOR, on Friday the fourteenth day of August, instant, at 3 P. M., in the Council Room, the Mayor in the chair; and having taken into consideration the explosion and destruction of the City Magazine from Gunpowder, which had happened between 12 and 1 A. M., of that morning, resolved to recommend that his Worship should offer a reward of £500 for the discovery of the offenders, in case the calamity had been the result of crime;—and also resolved that Aldermen Jennings, Bell and Noble, should be a Committee to investigate into the circumstances of this event, and report thereon to the City Council; and that the Recorder should be requested to give his attendance at the meetings of the committee.

In consequence of this resolution, the committee named above assembled in the Magistrates' room, on Saturday, the 15th August, instant, and were attended by the Recorder. The Provincial Government having in the meantime engaged the services of Messrs. J. W. Ritchie and W. A. Johnston, Barristers, on behalf of the Crown, in the absence of the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, to assist in this investigation, those Hon. Gentlemen also were present. The committee, having been organized by the appointment of Alderman Jennings, as their chairman,—proceeded to examine witnesses, under oath—having determined that such examination should be conducted in private: and during the fit-

teenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-fourth days of the present month, carefully examined thirty witnesses, separately:—reducing the deposition of each witness to writing, this portion of the duty being very diligently and satisfactorily performed by the assistant Clerk of the City, Mr. J. L. Cragg.

The committee were constantly attended throughout their proceedings by the Recorder, and the gentlemen on behalf of the Crown attended on several days and gave every assistance requisite.

The Committee beg leave thereupon to report to the City Council:

1. That to the best of their judgment, the calamity in question is not attributable to spontaneous combustion, nor to any atmospherical causes, and the inference seems inevitable that it has been caused by human agency.

2. That while every consideration points to some criminal act or neglect as having produced all the mischief,—your committee have been unable to discover any evidence that would point suspicion against any person or persons, as being culpable or having in way caused the occurrence.

3. That the stone discovered in a field west of the site of the Magazine, with the coating of powder, and piece of candle wick on it,—and the portion of candle tallow found adhering to a building south of the site, seem to indicate the presence of persons in or near the Magazine that night, on some evil errand.

4. Your committee after close inquiry into the conduct of the late keeper of the Magazine, Mr. Marshall, believe him to have been very careful and attentive to the safety of the premises, and strictly honest in his dealings therewith;—and as far as the evidence before them extends, they cannot believe that any improper conduct on his part has in any way contributed to produce the fatal result.

5. The committee have ascertained that several poor families have suffered severely both in their persons and in loss of goods,

by the explosion; and they earnestly recommend to the Council, if possible, to alleviate the distress of those who are reduced to positive destitution, which they apprehend is the case with one or more families.

6. The committee have to express their sympathy with the owners of buildings in the vicinity of the Magazine, to which the injury has been extensive.

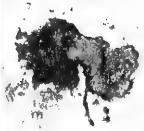
7. The committee think that public thanks are due to the Military, and to the officers and men of the Royal Navy, and those of the Dockyard department; also to the officers and men of the Fire Department of this City, and to several citizens, for their prompt attendance at the scene of the disaster, and their zeal to avert the worst consequences—that would have followed if either or both the neighbouring Military Magazines had exploded.

8. The humanity and generous feelings displayed by Dr. Domville of the Naval Hospital, and by his assistants in at once receiving the wounded sufferers into their establishment and using every effort for their relief, are deserving of sincere gratitude on the part of this City.

9. In order to come at correct results in this case the committee have taken unwearied pains, seeking every witness who they thought could throw any light on the affair; and have conducted the examinations privately and quietly;—in order the better to elicit the truth, and to avoid putting any criminals on their guard by too early a disclosure, if such criminals could be discovered. They now deem it best that the whole testimony herewith reported, should be published without delay, in order to disabuse the public mind of erroneous impressions on the subject.

Magistrates' Room,
Adopted in Committee,
August 25th, 1857.

J. JENNINGS, Chairman.



AFFIDAVITS OF WITNESSES.

Halifax City, }
To-wit: }

Alexander Keith, Junior, of the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, Gentleman, being duly sworn deposeth and saith:—For the last two months Mr. Marshall has been complaining and confined to his bed, when I went for the key of the Powder Magazine,—and sometimes I would give an order for powder, and the man would find Marshall, and sometimes he would not find him. If he found him he would get the powder, if he did not, I had to hunt the town for him. It was during the time appointed that I sent for the powder. He has delivered powder to me before and after hours, if the day was fine. He has told me that he would give up the Magazine in October. About twelve or eighteen months ago I found the Magazine in good order, but lately I have found it carelessly kept.—have frequently had to scrape the powder off the floor. On last Wednesday morning I went up to the Magazine in company with Mr. Crocket, and two teamsters, to get 55 barrels of gunpowder. Mr. Goodwin was present at the time,—it was about 10 o'clock in the morning. Mr. Crocket and myself were the only persons who went into the Magazine on that occasion. Crocket and I rolled the powder out. Rutherford and Bomand, the two teamsters, loaded the waggon, with the assistance of Samuel Goodwin, who lives near by. On this day I saw about one pound of powder on the floor. I scraped it up with a piece of hoop, and threw it under some of the barrels. I could feel the grains of powder under my feet—there was no broom to be seen about the place to sweep the floor. I could feel the powder under my feet all over the Magazine—have scraped the powder from the floor with my hand. Crocket locked both doors on this occasion, and took the key with him. I have gone to the Magazine for powder myself, without Mr. Marshall. There are some loop holes through the sides of the Magazine. I do not think they went straight through the walls of the building—they I think were in this shape ⌋–. There were shutters in the lobby, covered with copper outside—do not know if they were covered with copper inside—no window sashes—I think they were fastened with a bolt—have seen the light through them—have seen the powder piled up against those shutters the last time I was in the Magazine—the entrance by the south door is

used—there is also a door at the north end, but it is seldom used. I am positive that there was powder piled up against the shutters on the left hand side as you go in, on Wednesday last. The floors were of double boards—there was a hole in the floor at the inner door at the south large enough for a man's foot. I think there was a hole at the north door large enough for a man's body to go through—think there was a cellar of 4 or 5 feet under the Magazine—powder could be swept down either of those holes. There was no plaistering on the ceiling—could see no light through the roof. I think there was a lightning rod at the north end. Always take our powder away from the Magazine in teams. With the exception of the holes I have mentioned, I consider the building was in a good state of repair.—Since Marshall has been sick, I have seen a very slovenly state of things in the Magazine—kegs of powder lying about in all directions. I think the last day Crocket and I was there we moved a keg of powder, the head of which was loose, and the wrapping keeping the powder in. The key of the Magazine has of late been kept in Walsh and Crocket's shop. Marshall, the keeper, was of late found there—formerly used to find him in the street. Mr. Marshall was very obliging in delivering powder, and was very particular in receiving orders for it, and never delivered any to me without a written order. The only time I ever got any powder from the Magazine without an order, was on Wednesday last, when I got 35 barrels from Crocket, on promise of bringing up the order for it next day.

ALEX. KEITH, Junr.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 15th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To-wit:

Samuel Marshall, of the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, being duly sworn deposeth and saith:—I was keeper of the City Powder Magazine which exploded on Thursday night last. There were holes through the walls for ventilation, straight

through the wall about 6 or 8 inches wide and 14 or 16 inches, high, you could see daylight through them, some of these holes were open and others were stuffed with bagging, and have been so ever since I became Keeper. On the Western side of the Magazine those holes were about 8 feet from the ground, on the Eastern side more—the building was in a good state of repair. The roof of building is covered with Slate; from my observation of the building it was sufficient for safety. The building had a lightning rod—I saw it last Sunday morning. The floors of the building were sound, there was a small hatch at the South end of the building near the inner door inside, I do not know what it was made for—it was made—not broken; it was covered with a board. Am quite sure there was no hole in the floor at the North end af the building, have frequently opened the North door to give light and deliver powder—I deliver from the door most convenient—have always been very cautious in stowing powder. Whenever I found any keg out of order, informed the owners of it, and had it removed—the last time I was in the Magazine there was no loose powder lying about, nor no bad kegs. The last time I was in the Magazine I delivered 600 kegs powder, and swept the Magazine several times with a hair broom. This was on the 3d August last On looking at the orders, I find I did not deliver so many as 600 kegs on the day above alluded to, but the number indicated on the orders. The powder delivered on this day was taken away by water. The largest portion of powder generally delivered is taken away by land. An iron or steel shovel is kept in the Magazine—never was furnished with any other kind of a shovel. About 5 or 6 months since I got a copper hammer and driver for the use of the Magazine—I got no shovel at that time. I applied for a copper shovel. I used the iron shovel solely for shovelling snow, having no use for a shovel in the Magazine. Never used the shovel in the Magazine, but always the broom. I have been in a bad state of health for the last eight weeks—at times confined to the house. Never reported myself to the Mayor as being sick. During my sickness I authorized Mr. Crockett to deliver powder for me to Mr. Conlon, the Express man, and others, whose names I do not recollect. The Mayor or City Council was not aware that I was sick, or had appointed any person to act for me. The Magazine was not open on Thursday last. On the whole of Thursday I had the keys. On Wednesday, after Mr. Keith got his powder in the forenoon until the explosion, the keys were in my exclusive possession. While the boat races were going on,

the keys were in Mr. Crockett's shop. On Thursday I went to Crockett's at 11½ A. M. and left at 1. Hung the keys in the shop during that time, but they were in my view. Have only during my sickness left the keys at Crockett's. Have no idea how the explosion occurred. No person ever went to deliver powder from the Magazine except Conlon and Crocket, and one day Pierce Bowes went with Conlon the Express man to deliver powder, and also Mr. Keith, junr. I do not remember who the powder was for—it was some time ago. Mr. Keith has frequently got the keys from me to deliver powder;—said he would be responsible—left the order with me and took the delivery himself. He used to get the keys from me to get powder before my sickness. It was at the hours I was not bound to go that I gave Mr. Keith the keys to get powder. Never let any other person have the keys under similar circumstances. I could reach the holes spoken of on the upper side, but not on the lower side. I was home on the night of the explosion—got home at half-past eight o'clock. The powder kegs are covered with matting—some of them are copper hooped and some wooden hooped. There were 8 kegs of powder in the lobby, belonging to Mr. Starr, covered with matting—they were not against the window. Never was in the cellar. There could not have been an accumulation of powder in the cellar. At extraordinary high tides the water would flow into the cellar and wash it, if any, away. I think the cellar was a plastered wall. The kegs in the lobby were on the left hand side, but were not piled up against the window. The windows in the lobby had no sashes—they were covered with copper inside and out, and fastened with copper bolts. Am positive that the shutters were bolted the last time I was there. Whenever I reported to the City Council anything to be done to the Magazine, it was done promptly. Never had occasion to have any repairs done inside. I was out of my house after dinner on Thursday—left the key home hanging on a nail in the front hall—my coat was over it. The door was fastened with a catch—it could be opened from inside but not from outside. Nancy Brody is my housekeeper—she has lived in the family for 23 years. When I went to bed at half-past eight o'clock, the key was in the hall—I found it in the same place in the morning. The key is still in my possession. When I heard the explosion, I brought the keys down and showed them to Mr. Bentley, Capt. Cocaigne, and some others. The Magazine is very dark—neither candles, lamps, or lanthorns are kept on the premises. Some time last winter the

north door of the Magazine was accidentally left open one evening. Mr. Brittain came to my house and informed me of the fact—It was about five o'clock in the evening—I went up and closed the door;—the matter was brought before a committee of Aldermen, and I was acquitted of any blame. I do not think it possible for any one to get into the Magazine without a key, except they wrenched open the windows. There is only one bolt to each shutter—the shutters were in one piece. Persons could approach the Magazine from the north without the sentry seeing them. The holes mentioned in the first part of my examination are straight holes through the wall. You could put a stick through them, and see the daylight through them from inside;—they all communicated to that portion of the Magazine where the powder was kept. The wall is about 3 feet thick. There were copper nails to prevent the bolts of the shutters being pushed back.

his
SAMUEL ⋈ MARSHALL.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 15th day of August, A. D. 1857, —being first read over.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To-wit:

Patrick Cullen, of the city of Halifax, private of Her Majesty's 62d Regiment, who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—That I was on guard at the Magazine on the night of Thursday last. I went on sentry at 10 o'clock, p. m., and came off at 12 o'clock. During the time I was on sentry I did not see any person near the Magazines, nor did I see any boats approaching the shore. My duty compels me to go round the Magazine once in two hours. I went my rounds during the time I was on sentry. Did not see any lightning during the time I

was on sentry, and do not know any thing of the cause of the explosion.

his
PATRICK ✕ CULLEN.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 15th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, to wit:

Francis Dolan, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, private of H. M. 62nd Regiment, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I was sentry at the Military Magazine on the night of Thursday last—I went on sentry at 12 o'clock, and came off at 2 o'clock, A. M. About ½ past or 20 minutes past 12 o'clock on the night in question, was going my rounds, and approaching the City Magazine, I saw a flash—turned to the right about, and found sticks and stones flying about. I fell, and recovered myself in a few moments. I recovered myself, when I heard the corporal ask whether it was the Military or City Magazine exploded. I replied, after some time, that it was the City Magazine. The corporal then turned out the Guard, and went round the Magazine with them, and found the Military Magazine damaged in the end and roof; and having heard cries from the houses above, went to find out the cause. I had not fully gone round the Magazines previous to the explosion. My orders were to go round once in two hours. Persons could approach the City Magazine from the north without me seeing them—could not approach between the Magazines without being seen. Saw no boats near the shore, except from Dock Yard to the Admiral's ship. Saw no lightning while I was on duty—saw something that appeared to be sparks from a chimney in the

direction of the Railway station, but saw none falling near where I was on duty.

his
FRANCIS ⋈ DOLAN.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 15th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,—being first read over.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City,
To-wit:

Francis McKay, of the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, Cooper, having been duly sworn, maketh oath and saith:—That this morning about 10½ o'clock, a. m., I went to the Guard House in the Naval Hospital Yard, near to the water side. I was shewing Mr. Laehy, the contractor for vegetables, the marks on the north end of the Guard House caused by stones from the explosion of the Magazine on Friday morning. At about 8 or 9 feet above the ground, on the shingles of the gable end of the building, we observed grease sticking, apparently in our judgment, being tallow from a candle. Mr. Laehy scraped it off with a piece of board which had been split off by the explosion. We found a splinter in the grease when taken down, but am not certain if it was there before the scraping. I produce the piece of grease then obtained, also the splinter.

F. McKAY.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 15th day of August, A. D. 1857.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, }
To-wit: }

Samuel Godwin, of the City of Halifax, Carpenter, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :—I lived about 300 yards from the place where the Magazine stood. Have paid much attention to the state of the Magazine, and for my own safety made application for the situation of keeper thereof, as I found boys frequently about there smoking. About this time last year I found the door of the Magazine open. When I found the door open, I watched it for two hours, and went for Mr. Britton, who came over with me, and we shut the door—it was near dusk at the time—it was open all the afternoon. I think I had seen the keeper there that day. It was the north door I allude to. There was no hole in the floor at the north door. I was in the Magazine on Wednesday last—assisted in delivering 50 kegs of powder that day. There was a hole in the lower part of the Magazine leading to the cellar, that I think I could have got through. The hole was intended to give air to the joists. There was only one hole—it was on the western side of the building. I believe that a person could get into the interior of the building through the air hole I have mentioned, and the hole in the floor at the south door, by removing some of the loose stones at the air hole. I never tried to get through—never saw any man or boy try to get through the hole I refer to—have seen cats and dogs go through the hole—suggested the repair of the hole to Mr. Marshall, the keeper, about 4 or 5 weeks ago. I think on the day the last powder was shipped, about 6 or 8 weeks ago, heard Mr. Marshall was sick—called upon him—told him to give me the key, and I would attend to the business for him. I think he said he would send it, but did not. He asked me to attend to the business for him. On Wednesday last assisted to deliver 50 kegs of powder from the Magazine to Mr. Sutherland, the contractor. I think there was a window and shutter at the east side of the building in the porch. The powder was piled above the window. The Magazine was lined with boards, the ceiling was also covered with boards,—the north door was open on Wednesday last. It was was opened to give light to the building. I am satisfied that the doors were locked on that occasion, I believe Mr. Keith locked them. Mr. Keith had a person with him. I think his name is Crocket. I do not know the names of the teamsters who took the powder away. There is another hole on the eastern side in the foundation, covered with perforated copper, about 8 inches

square. There is a long narrow hole on the eastern side above the foundation in the wall—the lining of the walls would prevent the light from being seen through it. Mrs. Godwin told me that one of my children told her that a woman on the wharf said to him, "My boy you will not sleep in your bed to night." The boy was throwing stones at the time—one stone went near the woman. My boy is 9 years old. Tufts and Wheston were in company with my boy. Wheston knows the woman—I think her name is Walsh. I know nothing of a boat being seen that night approaching or leaving the shore. I know nothing of any powder being delivered on Thursday. I was about my place most of that day. I think if any had been delivered I would have seen it, as I have paid particular attention to it since Mr. Marshall has been sick. Mr. Marshall told me about four weeks since, in my shop, that Mr. Keith had taken 500 kegs of powder out of the Magazine instead of 300 kegs. There is nothing I know of myself, nor have I heard anything that would lead me to imagine how the explosion took place. Saw no broom about the Magazine—never heard or felt powder crack under my feet. The hole I spoke of has been split out—it was partially covered with a board, not nailed. I think it was Mr. Crocket who took the key on Wednesday last. Since Marshall's sickness, have seen Mr. Keith come there for powder without Crockett or Marshall with him. I think I have seen Conlon taking powder out of the Magazine alone. during Mr. Marshall's sickness also. I have never seen any light through any crevice or aperture when inside of the Magazine.

SAMUEL J. GODWIN.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 18th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, to wit:

Joseph Conlon, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, Express man, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith—The last time I was at the Magazine I think was the 6th or 7th of this month. At that time Mr. Marshall refused to go with me, and Mr. Crockett went with me. I went for some powder

for Mr. Albro—knew where the powder was in the Magazine, and also the lots of other parties;—never went to the Magazine alone—Marshall or Crockett, or Pierce Bowes, went with me. Marshall was very particular about opening the Magazine in damp weather, or allowing persons to go in with nails in their shoes. Never saw any quantity of powder on the floor—have felt powder grains under my feet. I provided myself with a pair of boots with copper nails. Have taken powder out of the north door—never saw a hole in the floor there. There is a step up into the Magazine at the south door from the porch. There was a hole like a hatchway as you went into the Magazine—it was partially covered over with a board—I do not know for what purpose it was there. There was, during the winter, copper hooped barrels in the porch—did not know whether there was any powder in the porch at the time of the explosion. I I think there were port holes on the eastern side of the building, 2 or 3—Do not remember any holes at the western side of the building—seldom passed that side. Those holes I saw I do not think that a small boy could get through—they appeared to be in repair—did not appear to be broken. From my own observation, or from any remarks heard from any one else, I can form no idea of the cause of the explosion. The key of the second door was kept inside hung up on a nail. There is a keyhole to the outside south door. Never observed any light thro' the holes I have mentioned. Do not remember whether the Magazine was lined with boards or not.

JOSEPH CONLON.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 18th day of August, A. D. 1857.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, To-wit:

James Britton, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, yeoman, maketh oath and saith:—I have been living

in the Magazine Cottage for 3 years—have charge of the Military Magazine. It is my duty to go round the Government Magazine—have frequently had occasion to speak to persons who were about the premises. On one occasion I had two men sent to the Police Station for smoking pipes in the vicinity of the City Magazine on a Sunday morning; they returned next day and abused me and the Guard. From that time I determined to interfere no more with the City Magazine. I think they were two railway navvies the men I sent down. Landing powder on the wharf one day, I spoke to the keeper of the careless manner in which labourers were handling the powder; he replied, that he did the best with the materials he had to work with. I reported the same to my superior officers. I think it was last year this happened. Did not think the labourers had the proper kind of boots on to go into a magazine. That was the only day I was inside of the Magazine—have been at the door since—saw grains of powder on the floor—not a great quantity. In handling powder, particularly if you roll the barrels, some grains will come out of the barrels. On one occasion Mr. Godwin called my attention to the north door being open. I went with him—took the key out of the door, and put a stick against the door, and asked the corporal of the Guard to place a sentry on the door until I went for the keeper. I went down, and could not find Mr. Marshall—left the key with Mr. Findlay, who, I understood, was one of Mr. Marshall's securities, and when I returned I met Mr Marshall, who had locked the door—it was a little after dark, about a year ago this month. I have no idea how the explosion took place, either from my own knowledge or from anything that has come to my knowledge. I have frequently, particularly on Sunday mornings, had occasion to drive boys away from the vicinity of the Magazine. Boys have had fires on the beach near the wharf, and I have put them out. Saw no lightning that night—was sitting on my door step until half-past eleven o'clock. The air holes in the City Magazine walls are straight through the walls—some of them were stuffed with bagging from the inside; on one occasion I put my hand through them from the outside, and felt the bagging. I spoke to Mr. Marshall, keeper, on the subject. The holes appeared to be in a good state of repair, and none of them large enough for a man or a boy to get through. The holes I speak of were on the eastern side—I know nothing of the holes on the western side. I have always felt alarmed that some accident would happen from the number of drunken persons from the neighboring

houses loitering about the City Magazine, with pipes, and smoking.

JAMES BRITTON.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 18th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, To-wit:

John Ross, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, yeoman, maketh oath and saith:—On Sunday afternoon was walking through Mr. Veith's field, and looking at the way the stones from the Magazine had ploughed up the ground, my attention was directed to a stone more deeply bedded than the rest. At the edge of the hole where the stone entered, I found a piece of candle-wick, with powder on it, and a small piece of slate stone attached to it. The stone in the ground had also powder on it. The candle-wick was about two inches long—the place where it was found is about 300 yards from where the Magazine stood, in a westwardly direction. I called the attention of Sergt. Bishop, of the Engineers, to the fact, and he took possession of the candle-wick. Subsequently the stone was taken away by Mr. Shirras. The stone appeared to have come straight down, and buried itself 8 or 10 inches into the ground.

his
JOHN ⋈ ROSS.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 18th day of August, A. D. 1857, being first read

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, }
To-wit : }

William Henry Bishop, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, sergeant of the Royal Engineers, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :—I stop at the new Barracks—am Inspector of Works. On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Veith's man came to my quarters and said he had found something in connection with the blowing up of the Magazine. He said it was candle-wick. When I came to the spot, found the candle-wick attached to the stone. Took sergeant-major O'Donnell, late of 76th Regt., and Mr. Veith, with me, and took possession of the candle-wick and stone. The stone is about 1 foot nine inches long, in a wedged shape—buried below the surface some 4 or 5 inches. There was about 1-16th of an inch of gunpowder all over the stone. I think there was no portion of the candle-wick burned. There was a small piece of slaty stone attached to the candle-wick—it was about three inches long the candle-wick. I took possession of the stone and candle-wick, and had them conveyed to the Ordnance office, now in charge of Mr. Pringle. About a twelvemonth since, on passing the City Magazine, about 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon, I found the north door open. I again saw the door open the same evening at about 7 o'clock, and on the following morning at about 5 o'clock, when I was going down to bathe. I did not report the fact to the keeper—did not know him—made no report to any one.

WM. BISHOP,
Segeant R. E.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 18th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me. }

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, }
To-wit : }

Daniel Crockett, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, shopkeeper, maketh oath and saith :—The last time I was in the Magazine was on the 12th August, instant—the first time I believe was the 6th August. I was there twice on the 6th—I went at the request of Mr. Marshall, the keeper. The

first delivery on the 6th was to Conlon, the Express man—the second on that day was to Bessonett & Brown, about 10 kegs I think. I found the doors were secure on that occasion—I left them secure. On the 12th August I delivered to Mr. Alexander Keith, junr., 55 barrels, and a team took them away. Mr. Keith had an order for 20 barrels, and said he had an order for 20 more, which 40 kegs he got, and the teams went away, and I locked the inner door, and remained in the lobby with Mr. Keith. Mr. Godwin was sitting at the door. Mr. Keith proposed that he should have 15 kegs more, to give a load to the waggons, which, after some hesitation, I consented to let him have, he promising to bring the order for the same immediately. This was the last time I was in the Magazine. The north door was not open that day. I locked the inner door, hung the key up, and locked the outer door, and took the keys to my shop, and hung the keys up on a nail—it was then about 11 o'clock. Mr. Marshall took the keys from my shop about 2 o'clock that day. Have no idea how the explosion occurred. On the following day, Thursday, Mr. Marshall was leaving my shop about 1 o'clock, and observed to a person at the door that it was a holiday for him, as he had delivered no powder that day, nor would he do so, as the time had expired. The casks in the Magazine were all orderly arranged—each person's powder was piled separately. I took no particular notice of waste of powder the first time I visited the Magazine—the last I observed that the floor had been recently swept. On the last occasion I was at the Magazine, Mr. Keith, in turning a keg that was in his way, some of the powder came out on the floor; he began to remove it with his boot; deponent remonstrated with him; Mr. Keith then got a piece of wooden hoop, and scraped it out of his way. Deponent, to satisfy himself where the powder came from, turned the keg down, and found that the powder came from it, the head being in a defective state. It has been about 3 weeks since Marshall first left the keys in my shop. The key of the Magazine was of copper—an ordinary shaped key. Before I left the Magazine, I scraped up the powder that was on the floor with my hand, and put it under the keg from which it came out of. I never opened the north door. The south door opens in. There is a small hatchway as you go into the Magazine, inside the lobby—it was partially covered with a board. There was a pale door inside the inner door leading to the main chamber of the Magazine, and between those two doors is the hatchway I speak of. The pale door is fastened with a copper bolt—not

locked. I never observed any opening in the floor but one. The last time I was in the Magazine there were 10 or 12 kegs of powder in the lobby, but not piled up against the window on the east side of the lobby. There was a small door at the western end of the lobby—have seen the light over it—it is covered with copper—the lock was a copper morticed one—the key only required to be turned once in it. Mr. Marshall told me if I had occasion to open the north door, that the key required two turns. and to be sure to lock it twice.

DANIEL CROCKET.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 18th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To-wit:

Pierce Bowes, of the City of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, Shopkeeper, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I was at the City Powder Magazine twice—the first time was about three weeks ago, to deliver 4 kegs of powder to H. H. Fuller—the next time, about two days after, I went to deliver some powder to Black, Brothers & Co., 5 kegs. It was with Conlon the Express man I went up both times. I unlocked the outer door, and Conlon the inner door the first time—neither time did I see any powder on the floor to speak of. Both times, after delivery of the powder, I put my knee to the door to be sure that it was fast—did not open the north door of the Magazine either time I was there, and also locked both the gates—there was some kegs of powder in the porch. I do not know how many they were on the left hand side going in. Marshall was sick at this time. There was a small hatch about a foot square inside the second door. From my own knowledge, nor from anything I have heard, I have any idea how the explosion took place. I did not observe any holes in the Magazine large enough for a man or a boy to go through. I did not see any lights through any crevices in the building—no light but what came from the door.

There was not as much powder on the Magazine floor as would cover a penny piece, and I think it was kept in an orderly and careful state.

PIERCE BOWES.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 18th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Committee Room,
Halifax, 19th Aug. 1857.

SIR—

As chairman of the committee appointed by the City Council to investigate the cause of the City Powder Magazine explosion, I respectfully request the stone and piece of candle wick which were found in Mr. Vieth's field, bearing marks of Gunpowder, and therefore supposed to have been driven thither by the explosion of the Powder Magazine, may be sent to the Police Office for the inspection of the City Magistrates, under charge of some person who may afterwards, if necessary, identify those objects as the same which have been placed in your charge; and as Serjeant Bishop has already testified on this matter, it would be best to employ him in bringing those things to the Police, so as to secure their identification.

I am, Sir,
Very truly yours, &c.

J. JENNINGS,
Alderman and Chairman
Committee.

R. R. PRINGLE, Esquire,
Storekeeper War Department.

Halifax City, to wit:

Patrick Connors, of the City of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, Yeoman, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I

lived in one of the houses that was damaged by the explosion of the Magazine. Sleeping room up stairs—window in the gable end looking south—went to bed at 10 o'clock that night, but had to get up about 12 o'clock, and sat on a box near the window, smoking my pipe—had a light burning in the room—and also a clock. While sitting on the box at the window, I saw a boat leaving the shore with a light in it—I saw the light and heard the sound of oars rowing—could not see the boat—that is what I mean by seeing the boat. It was a bright clear light—do not think it was a torch light—saw it moving—it was going towards Dartmouth, in a northerly course from the foot of Mr. Kaye's field, which is directly below where I lived, and but a short distance north of the City Magazine. I thought to myself, that it was a strange thing to see a boat in that situation at such an hour. A few minutes after I had seen the boat I was about going into bed again, when the explosion took place—throwing me down—breaking my furniture and damaging my house. From my own knowledge, nor from any thing I have seen or heard, can I have any idea of how the explosion took place.

his
PATRICK ⋈ CONNORS.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 19th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me, being first read over.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To-wit:

John Campbell, of the City of Halifax, and county of Halifax, Police Constable, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—On the evening of the explosion I was on duty at the Theatre, outside—about 9½ o'clock I saw a flash of lightning to the northward—it was *flash* lightning—I observed similar flashes

some four or five between that time and 10½ o'clock—I went inside the Theatre at that hour, and did not see any more flashes. Nothing has come to my own knowledge, nor have I heard of any thing that would lead me to the conclusion as to how the explosion took place.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 19th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To-wit:

Honora Walsh, of the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, Spinster, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I was in the vicinity of the Magazine the day previous to the explosion of the Magazine—I went for the purpose of bathing, there was several little children there, bathing also—some of the boys were throwing stones—I do not think they were throwing stones at me, but one of them struck me on the head—I then said, to frighten them, that I would see the Constables, and have them taken that night—saw no man about there at the time. Nothing I have heard or know would lead me to the conclusion of how the accident occurred. I live in Mr. Brown's house, near the Naval Hospital. I went into Mr. Maher's house, in the neighbourhood, after coming out of the water. Mr. Maher's house was destroyed by the explosion.

her
HONORA ⋈ WALSH.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 19th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,—being first read over.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, }
To-wit: }

Patrick Stokes, of the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, Yeoman, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I lived in the house immediately west of the Magazine, that was completely destroyed—went to bed about 10½ o'clock on the night of the explosion—nothing that has occurred previous or since the explosion, or have I heard any thing that would lead me to the conclusion of how the accident occurred.

his
PATRICK ⋈ STOKES.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 19th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,—being first read over. }

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, }
To-wit: }

William McAgy, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, Tailor, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I was at my building on the wharf below the Magazine, on the morning before the Magazine explosion. I think I was there from 11 o'clock until 1 o'clock. I passed the Magazine—did not see the door open, nor any appearance of taking powder out. I think if any person was there taking powder while I was there I would have seen them. My building was about 30 feet from the Magazine building. I gave the Mayor and Colonel Stodhard a written notice on Thursday, the 13th instant, of my intention of erecting a steam engine on my premises, near the Magazine. On one occasion, about twelve months, Mr. Lyle was landing 600 barrels of powder on my wharf, I went up to the Magazine, and on entering I saw some powder on the floor, perhaps a wine glass full. I called Marshall's attention to it—he commenced scraping it up with his foot, and said he would get a broom and sweep it up. The loose powder I speak

of was not in that part of the Magazine where they were bringing in the powder. I reported the fact to the Mayor. As far as I could judge I noticed no marks of disrepair in the exterior of the building. I believe the keeper was a very inefficient man and quite incompetent to perform the duties of keeper of the Magazine. I was one of the persons who recommended Mr. Godwin for the situation of keeper last October, in competition with the present keeper, as Godwin was a sober man, and lived in the vicinity of the Magazine. I have no idea from my own knowledge, or from any thing I have heard, how the explosion took place.

W. A. McAGY.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 20th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, To-wit:

Patrick Crockwell, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, yeoman, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—On Thursday night last I slept under a tree near the Horticultural Gardens—that was the night of the explosion. I heard the noise, and thought it was too early for the gun. In the early part of the evening I was in the neighborhood of the South Barracks—during the day I was about Fresh Water. In the morning after daylight, I went up New Town, near the slaughter house. I passed the explosion during the day, and went as far as the colored settlement, and came back again the same day into town. To the best of my belief I slept in the bush in the grove above the Railway Depot. From Saturday morning until Tuesday I do not know where I slept, I was so stupified for the want of sleep, and possibly from the effects of liquor. Think I saw Patrick Stokes on Sunday, near the depot, in the grove. On Tuesday morning I was in the bush near the 3-mile house. I was at the 3-mile house in the morning—got a glass of rum and something to eat, and went into the bush again. Saw a man in a waggon—we were talking about the explosion—did not tell

any person that I was hiding in the woods in consequence of the explosion, and did not tell them to say I was not there—Was not laboring under the apprehension of fear, or the influence of liquor. After I left the man I went into the woods again. I was there when Police Constables Ham and Roddick took me—they brought me to the city. I have no knowledge of how the accident occurred, and am perfectly innocent of the occurrence, and know nothing at all about the matter but what I have stated.

his
PATRICK ⋈ CROCKWELL.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 20th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,—being first read over.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, }
To-wit: }

James Cochran, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, esquire, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I am a member of the committee of City Property. The Powder Magazine is in charge of that committee. I recollect on one occasion last year Mr. Lyle applying for room for powder. Mr. Marshall reported that the Magazine was sufficiently filled. I went with other members of the committee to see the state of the Magazine, and pointed out to the keeper how the powder could be stowed. I entered the Magazine the two doors north and south were open. I found the floor in a good state of repair. We were very exact in questioning Mr. Marshall as to the mode of keeping the Magazine, and suggested some improvements in the piling of the kegs, lest they should by some accident fall. I saw no powder on the floor, but the floor perfectly clean. I visited it again in May last, in company with the committee. Mr. Lyle was again landing powder. I went into the Magazine again, and saw nothing I could point out to the keeper as being wrong—suggested getting some copper or composition tools for the Magazine, which were got. We ex-

amined the exterior of the building, and found a small piece of copper off the shutter, and a small piece of copper on the ridge-pole broken, which we reported to the chairman. If I had seen anything in the exterior appearance of the building that required repair, I would have thought it part of my duty to have it rectified or repaired immediately. I do not know from my own knowledge, nor have I heard any thing that would lead me to conclude how the explosion took place.

JAMES COCHRAN.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 20th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, To-wit:

Matthew Lownds, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, esquire, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :—I am a member of the committee of City Property. The Powder Magazine is in charge of that committee. Early in May last, or the latter part of April, I officially visited the Magazine, together with some others of the committee. The keeper was present, and receiving powder from a vessel at the Magazine wharf. I went into the Magazine at that time, and found it in an orderly state. If there had been any powder on the floor I would not have gone in. There were no holes in the floor that I saw. On the occasion I speak of. I went round the building—saw there were loop-holes, some 16 or 18 inches high, 4 or 5 inches wide —saw nothing in the walls that would lead me to think they wanted repair. It was for that purpose the committee went up to the Magazine. When the committee reported that the wharf was out of repair to the City Council, they, the City Council, ordered the committee to have it immediately repaired, which they did at a cost of ninety-five pounds odd. When it was reported to the Council that the adze and driver used in the Magazine were not of the description which were considered safe, the Council ordered the committee to get copper or composition ones, which they did, such as are used in the Government Ma-

gazine. Orders were also given to Marshall for a copper shovel. The loop holes I have spoken of went through the walls of the building, underneath the floor of the building, on the western side. I saw the grass under the floor through the loop-holes—Did not see light through any part of the Magazine but the door—Saw no bagging in the loop-holes—Did not think the tide came into the cellar of the Magazine—it might possibly go in at a very high tide. My impressions are that the calamity was the result of design.

M. LOWNDS.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 20th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To-wit:

William McKay, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, esquire, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :—In respect to the repairs of the Magazine building, I state that when anything was reported to me as chairman of the committee of City Property, wanting repair, I immediately had it done. I have had frequent occasions to visit the Magazine officially, and have brought master tradesmen with me to point them out the repairs and improvements necessary to be made—Did not notice any disrepair in the walls. I believe there were no holes in the walls that a man or boy could get through. There were air holes in the building I think about 18 inches by 2 or 3 inches. The walls could not have been in a state of disrepair, or I would have seen them, as I went to the Magazine for the purpose of finding out what was required to be done. The keeper, Mr. Marshall, always manifested great anxiety to have the building in safe keeping: and several months ago, I think last winter, spoke of the tools in use, and had copper ones immediately supplied by the committee of City Property, who also directed him to get a copper shovel. During the current year, the committee of City Property represented to the Council that the wharf at the Magazine was out of repair; the Council forthwith gave them instructions to have it immediately repaired, which they did at an expense of over ninety-five pounds. It is an abiding

impression on my mind that the explosion of the Magazine was the work of an incendiary.

WILLIAM MACKAY.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 20th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, To-wit:

Samuel Tufts, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, carpenter, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—The day previous to the explosion of the Magazine I was working in Mr. McAgy's store, a short distance from the Magazine, and worked there until 7 o'clock on that evening. I saw a woman of middle ag near the place where I was working—she had been bathinge Passing the place where I was working, I heard her say, "By God you will not rest in your bed to-night, without I get satisfaction"—Did not know who she was addressing herself to. My impression was that she was going to the Police. Shortly afterwards my son told me that he saw a boy throw a stone and struck the woman on the head—Did not hear the woman say anything else. I do not know from my own knowledge, nor from anything I have heard, how the explosion took place.

SAMUEL TUFTS.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 20th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To wit:

Robert G. Fraser, of the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, Chemist and Druggist, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I have turned my attention to Chemistry. There is no case recorded that has met my notice of spontaneous ex-

plosion of Gunpowder. Phosphorus is a chief ingredient in matches now in use. Pure Phosphorus is in a state of combustion when the heat of the atmosphere approaches 90 or thereabouts. In mixing Phosphorus for matches it is usually combined with gum, by mere mechanical mixture or process—do not think it probable that a Phosphorus match would ignite without friction. If the heat was at 90 the slightest friction would ignite a Phosphorus match. The imperfect preparation of matches, exposing any portion of the Phosphorus uncombined. would necessarily lead to its combustion in case of heat. If a rat or mouse were to disturb a Phosphorus match, the slightest motion might possibly ignite it. Did not observe the state of the atmosphere on the night of the explosion. I do not believe that heat lightning would cause a misfortune like the explosion of the Magazine. I have never turned my attention to the study of shooting stars. I have no idea how the Magazine exploded—unless it were by design. In case of the fall of a cask of powder from the tier on the floor, coming in contact with sharp sand, or any flinty substance, it is possible that combustion may ensue.

ROBT. G. FRASER.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 20th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, To-wit:

Peter Laughlan, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, merchant, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :—About half-past seven o'clock on the night of the explosion, standing at my door in company with Mr. Cochran, saw something like a rocket or shooting star in the direction of the Province Building. Spoke to Mr. Cochran about it at the time—he did not see it; there were no stars to be seen in the sky at the time. About an hour after, I saw something similar over Jerusalem warehouse; there were no stars visible then in the sky. I mentioned the circumstance to Mr. Wilson, Dartmouth, who told

me he had seen something similar. I think the shooting stars I have alluded to may have been the cause of the explosion.

his
PETER ⋈ LAUGHLAN.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 21st day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,—being first read over.

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, To-wit:

Henry Peters, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, gentleman, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—On two or three occasions have seen a stranger going to the Magazine—saw the key in his hand—I am told his name is Crockett. Wednesday before the explosion was the last time I saw powder leaving the Magazine. I was under the impression that I saw the Magazine open on Thursday, but on reflection I find that it was Wednesday I saw the powder leaving and not on Thursday. From my own knowledge, or from anything I have heard before or since the explosion, I can form no conclusion how the calamity took place.

HENRY PETERS.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 21st day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To-wit:—

Thomas Ring, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, esq., being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—I am a member of the committee of City Property. I visited the Magazine in reference to the Magazine wharf some time in May last. At that time went round the Magazine, and went also through it—found it in a good state—floors clean, and everything regular. They were taking in powder at the time—both doors were open.

The powder was piled away snug. The men were carrying in the powder on handbarrows. I thought that their boots were not of the proper description to be used for such a purpose. The exterior walls appeared to be in good order. The only objection I had was the buildings near it on the wharf, belonging to private parties, and I thought them dangerous. I observed some holes through the foundation wall underneath the floor—they had perforated plates of metal a short distance in the holes. There was more than one of those holes. The stowage of the powder was quite satisfactory to me, and also the general appearance of the way in which the Magazine was kept. I did not see a grain of powder on the floor—if I had seen any I should have ordered the doors to be closed and a stoppage put to the work. From my own knowledge, or from any thing that has come to my knowledge, I do not know how the calamity occurred, but believe it to have originated by design.

THOMAS RING.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 24th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, To-wit:

William Cocken, of the City of Halifax, in the County of Halifax, Master Mariner, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—About a quarter of an hour after the explosion, I called on Mr. Marshall, who lives opposite me—he appeared to be in great trouble—did not ask him for the keys of the Magazine—did not see them. Nothing that has come to my knowledge before or since the Magazine explosion would lead me to conclude how the accident took place—observed a great many shooting stars in the early part of that evening.

WILLIAM COCKEN.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 24th day of August, 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, }
To-wit: }

Ann Brody, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, spinster, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :—On the day of the explosion of the Magazine, Mr. Marshall brought the keys home between 12 and 1 o'clock, and laid them on the dresser. They remained there until the explosion took place. Shortly after the explosion two or three persons came into the house, one of whom was Mr. Bentley. I then went to the dresser and took the keys up and showed them to Mr. Bentley, saying, "These are the keys of the Magazine." I know them to be the keys of the Magazine—have known them ever since Mr. Marshall became the keeper. Have been 22 years in Mr. Marshall's family. The keys of the Magazine were never out of the house at night—Never knew of them being taken out of the house by any person but Mr. Marshall, but on one occasion when Mr. Marshall was sick—I think it was to Mr. Keith, but am not quite certain. It was always my practice before retiring at night to see that the Magazine keys were in their place, and I never missed them on any occasion. I know nothing personally, neither have I heard anything either before or since the explosion of the Magazine that would lead me to the conclusion as to how the accident occurred.

her
ANN ⋈ BRODY.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this }
24th day of August, A. D. }
1857, before me,—being }
first read over. }

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, }
To-wit: }

William Bently, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, mastmaker, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :—Was in my yard—saw the explosion, and went to the scene of

disaster. I remained a few minutes there, and thought I would go and see after Mr. Marshall. Went to his house—found him much agitated, and tried to pacify him. Was showed one or more keys by the housekeeper, who told me that they were the keys of the Magazine—One was a very large key. I have not, from anything that has come to my knowledge either before or after the explosion, been able to come to any conclusion as to how the accident took place.

WILLIAM BENTLY.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 24th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

Halifax City, To-wit:

Andrew Mackinlay, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, esquire, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :—I know of no instance in my reading of Gunpowder alone exploding spontaneously. There is a class of substances subject to spontaneous combustion ;—for example, oil of turpentine, charcoal, oiled rags of woollen or cotton, &c. Phosphorus willignite spontaneously at a temperature of 150. If phosphorus matches were accidentally dropped in any part of the Magazine, it would be very dangerous. Both electricity and dryness would have a tendency to facilitate the ignition of matches composed of phosphorus. Ordinary sheet lightning is not likely to set anything on fire on the earth. The meteors I saw about that time would not probably do any damage ; they generally shoot from east to west, and passing at a height too great a distance from the earth. I can form no idea of the probable cause of the explosion.

ANDREW MACKINLAY.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 24th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

City of Halifax, }
To-wit: }

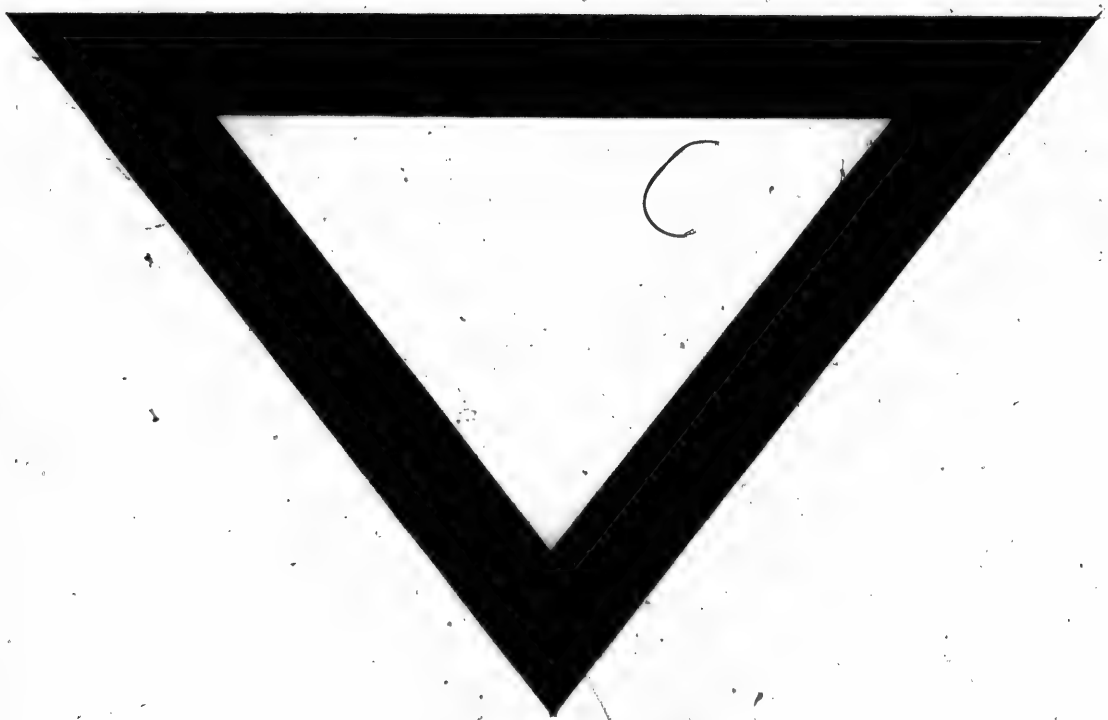
Redmond Bracket, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax, yeoman, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith:—On the night of the explosion of the Powder Magazine I was in a sail boat belonging to Mr. John McNab, alone—Was coming from Black Point, Dartmouth, towards Cunard's wharf, and was abreast of the Flag-ship, and to the eastward of her, when the explosion took place. It was a darkish night, and perfectly calm. From the time I left the Black Point until the explosion took place, I did not see or hear any boat leaving the Halifax shore. If there had been a boat leaving the western shore with a light in her, I think I would have seen her. Part of the time Black Point shut out the Magazine from my view. I had no light in my boat, and was rowing. It took me 1½ hours to cross from Black Point to Cunard's wharf. From anything I know or have heard, I can come to no conclusion as to the cause of the disaster.

his
REDMOND ⋈ BRACKET.
mark.

Sworn to at Halifax, this 24th day of August, A. D. 1857, before me,—being first read over. }

J. JENNINGS, J. P.

END.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